

Media, PA--In his effort to expand awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) celebrated the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) National EITC Day. — “The EITC is the largest federal program benefiting working families, acting as a boon to low income workers when tax time comes around,” said Congressman Sestak. “It is a valuable tool that helps eligible taxpayers to lower their taxes or receive refunds. Although more than 22.4 million taxpayers received over \$43.7 billion in EITC on their 2006 federal income tax returns (including 779,963 Pennsylvanians), the IRS estimates that at least 20% more taxpayers may be eligible, but not aware of or claim their EITC.”

The EITC, created in 1975, helps offset Social Security taxes and provides an incentive to work. More than 60% of the EITC returns are filed in February. This year’s new income limits are \$37,783 for families with two or more children (\$39,783 if married filing jointly); \$33,241 (\$35,241 if married filing jointly) for families with one child; and \$12,590 (\$14,590 if married filing jointly) if there are no children. Investment income must be \$2,900 or less.

On February 1, a tax assistance center will open at 1400 N. Providence Road in Media, PA to help to prepare tax returns for persons with total income below \$40,000. Beginning on January 29 through April 15, the Community Action Agency of Delaware County will also operate a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site out of the Wesley House, 701 Madison Street, Chester, PA. This site is available by appointment only by calling (610) 891-6327.

Taxpayers can also receive help through the IRS Free File program with internet access at IRS tax centers. 70% of the nation’s taxpayers are eligible for Free File ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov))

Qualifying employees can ask their employers about how to receive part of their 2008 EITC through advances on their paychecks. The IRS also warns persons to be wary of tax preparers who promise large refunds. Taxpayers can access where their refund is at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).